

Project Proposal

Proposal Title: Peters Canyon II

Proposal Number: 1409

DWR Region: Southeastern Region

Lead Agency: BLM

County: San Juan

Project Manager: Brian Keating

PM Phone: 4356133717

Regional Priority: Within Focus Area

Project Type: Terrestrial Habitat

Proposed Start Date: 8/1/2008

Project Location: The Peters Canyon is several miles north of the town of Monticello, Utah in San Juan County.

Project Description: A fuels reduction treatment will remove 53 acres of pinyon and juniper trees previously chained on BLM administered lands directly adjacent to the Peters Canyon WUI project utilizing a bullhog and a ATV harrow for seeding.

Description of Problem/Need: In the past one hundred years, a variety of actions such as wildfire suppression and livestock management actions have altered the vegetative community on public lands in San Juan County. Much has changed over the past sixty years in our understanding of fuels reduction treatments, our knowledge of specific treatment activities that are most likely to achieve goals and objectives, the science behind treatment effectiveness in different vegetative landscapes, and the public viewpoint regarding fuels reduction in the wildland/urban interface and across other public lands. The chaining projects that were implemented by the BLM in the 1960's in southeastern Utah, of which the Peters Canyon II project is the perfect example, were based upon the best knowledge available at the time and were usually designed to achieve specific objectives such as rangeland improvement or wildlife habitat restoration. Due, in part, to the BLM's inability to conduct maintenance on some of these projects over the years, the BLM has had to revisit the sites and determine a course of action that will not only correct some of the problems created by lack of maintenance, but also to ascertain what may best accomplish today's objectives with contemporary knowledge and improved tools. In the case of Peters Canyon II, current research and scientific studies show that a fuels reduction treatment would prevent further deterioration of the watershed and soils, would encourage re-establishment of understory grasses and forbs, and would help to protect fragile resources from the effects of wildland fire.

Objectives: Reduce the threat of resource damaging wildfire, improve ecological diversity and wildlife habitat, maintain and finish existing fuels reduction project.

Relevance to Strategic Plans: Peter's Canyon II project ties directly into the 2004/2005 Peters Canyon WUI project. Peter's Canyon II project falls within a WAP focus area for Southeastern Utah.

Potential Risks: Risks if treatment were not implemented include: hazardous fuels buildup; potential for invasive species introduction; and loss of big game habitat and forage.

Proposed Methods: The mechanical treatment would utilizing a bullhog or mechanical shredder to reduce pinyon and juniper trees on 53 acres of a previously chained area. The objectives of this treatment would be to create an assortment of mixed-density pinyon/juniper groupings. Seeding of Peter's Canyon would be completed utilizing broadcast seeders mounted on ATV's with a drag harrow.

Shapefile Name: HPD 2010\GIS Shape Files - Proposals\SER\1409.shp

Seed Source: GBRC

UPCD Reg Team Coord Date: 1/20/2008

Proposed NEPA Action:

Proposed Arch Action:

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☐ **Wildlife Monitoring**

Monitoring Information: The BLM fuels program will utilize a series of rangeland plots and fuel transects to monitor the effectiveness of the fuels treatments and subsequent revegetation treatments. All monitoring activities will involve quantitative and qualitative techniques and be repeated annually for the first three years following treatment. All research studies will result in reports, which will be available for other agencies and partners. The Range Trend study Peter's Canyon 14R-19 was placed in Phase I of the project.

Grazing Management: The Peter's Canyon II project is part of the Peter's Point/Peter's Canyon grazing allotment within the Monticello Field Office. Initial planning efforts for the project included an agreement with the permittee to rest the area from grazing following the treatments. Grazing from cattle would not be allowed for a minimum of two growing seasons or until management objectives have been met.

SPECIES BENEFITING

Project Proposal

Mule Deer

Elk

Merriam's Wild Turkey

LAND OWNERSHIP

| Owner | Acres |
|--------------|-----------|
| BLM | 53 |
| Total | 53 |

PROPOSED FUNDING

| Source | Amount Requested | Date Approved | Amount Approved |
|------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Unfunded Balance | \$2,200.00 | | \$0.00 |
| BLM FLR | \$22,150.00 | | \$0.00 |
| BLM ARRA | \$2,000.00 | 3/12/2009 | \$2,000.00 |
| Totals | \$26,350.00 | | \$2,000.00 |

PROPOSED BUDGET

| Item | Description | DWR Account | Partner Contrib. |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| NEPA | NEPA | \$0.00 | \$3,000.00 |
| Contractual Services | Bullhog \$221/acre | \$0.00 | \$11,700.00 |
| Seed (GBRC) | \$79/acre for 53 acres | \$4,200.00 | \$1,850.00 |
| Archaeological Survey | | \$0.00 | \$3,000.00 |
| Personal Services | BLM ATV seeding | \$0.00 | \$2,600.00 |
| Totals | | \$4,200.00 | \$22,150.00 |

Project Map:

Peters Canyon II Project Area (53 Acres)
UPCD Proposal Map

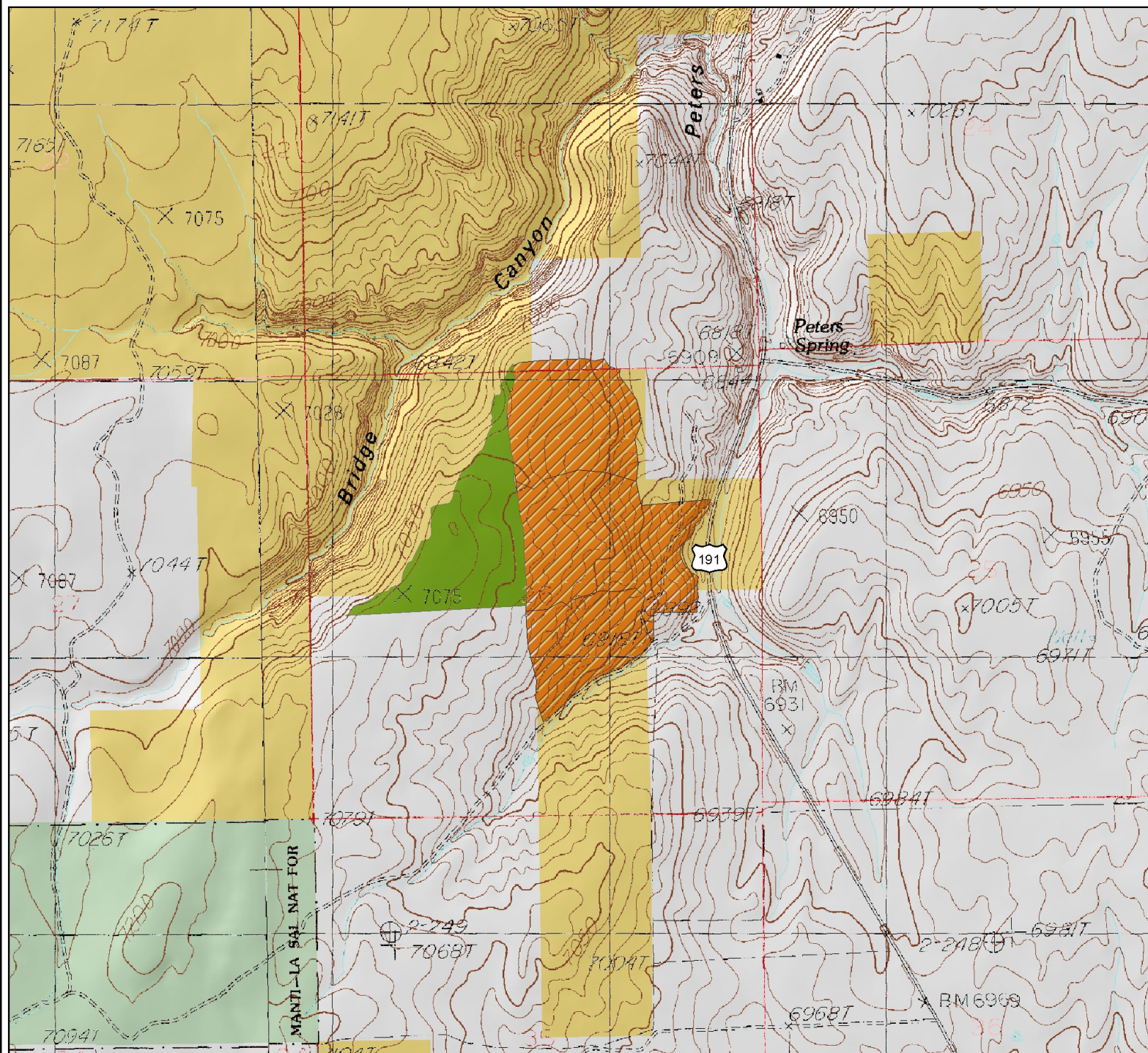
State of Utah

1:20,000










| Miles | | |
|-------|------|-----|
| 0 | 0.25 | 0.5 |

Created December 5, 2008
Gabriel J. Bissonette



LEGEND

-  Peters Canyon II Project (Proposed)
-  Peters Canyon I Project (Completed)
-  Municipality
-  Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
-  Private (White)
-  US Forest Service (USFS)
-  State

